

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LISBON 05253 291643Z

70

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 COME-00 EB-07 LAB-01 SIL-01 NIC-01 SAM-01

/076 W

----- 029771

R 291535Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1139

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 5253

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB PINT PO

SUBJ: LABOR SITUATION IN PORTUGAL

1. FOLLOWING FACTORS ARE DOMINANT IN CURRENT LABOR SITUATION
IN PORTUGAL:

A. THE PREVIOUSLY EXISTING LOCAL UNION INFRA-STRUCTURE BUILT
UNDER THE SALAZAR/CAETANO CORPORATE STATE SYSTEM, INCLUDING
GOOD UNION QUARTERS, A SYSTEM OF DUES CHECK-OFF PAID DIRECTLY
TO UNIONS, UNION-MANAGED EMPLOYMENT PLACEMENT SERVICES, AND
ADEQUATE HIRED STAFFING, CONTINUE TO EXIST. THE SINGLE BASIC
CHANGE HAS BEEN IN UNION LEADERSHIP, AS NEW GROUPS OF YOUNG
(UNDER 30) POLITICALLY-ORIENTED LEADERS HAVE REPLACED THE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LISBON 05253 291643Z

PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT HACKS.

B. A LARGE MAJORITY OF THIS NEW LEADERSHIP IS STRONGLY ORIENTED TOWARD THE COMMUNIST PARTY LINE, PARTICULARLY IN THE LARGEST AND MOST IMPORTANT UNIONS. THOSE IN EFFECTIVE CONTROL OF ORGANIZED LABOR IN PORTUGAL ARE ALMOST TOTALLY UNAWARE OF WESTERN-ORIENTED INTERNATIONAL LABOR ORGANIZATIONS. ALTHOUGH THE POLITICAL ACTIVISM AND ORIENTATION OF THE LEADERS IS NOT BELIEVED INDICATIVE OF THE ATTITUDES OF THE BULK OF THE MEMBERS REPRESENTED BY THE UNIONS, THERE IS A GENERAL ACCEPTANCE BY THE WORKERS OF THE DECISIONS TAKEN IN THEIR NAME BY THE LEADERSHIP.

C. SUPPORT FOR THE GOVERNMENT'S PROPOSED DECREE LAW PROVIDING FOR A UNITARY LABOR MOVEMENT (READ INTERSINDICAL) RANGES FROM FERVENT TO TACITLY IN FAVOR BUT THE UNION LEADERSHIP AND THE MANAGED NEWS MEDIA SUCCESSFULLY CONVEY THE IMPRESSION OF OVERWHELMING WORKER SUPPORT IN FAVOR OF A UNITARY LABOR MOVEMENT. ANY UNION LEADER PUBLICLY OPPOSING THE DECREE LAW WOULD BE VULNERABLE TO CHARGES OF BEING REACTIONARY. THE CENTER-LEFT PARTY PPD AND THE SOCIALIST PARTY OPPOSE A GOVERNMENTALLY-IMPOSED UNITARY LABOR MOVEMENT BUT HAVE BEEN ABLE TO MAKE THEIR OPPOSITION KNOWN ONLY THROUGH PARTY RATHER THAN THROUGH ORGANIZED LABOR CHANNELS. THE INTERNATIONAL CONFEDERATION OF FREE TRADE UNIONS (ICFTU) HAS LIKEWISE HAD LIMITED SUCCESS (THROUGH ITS CENTER FOR SINDICAL STUDIES -CES) IN MAKING KNOWN ITS ARGUMENTS AGAINST FEATURES OF THE PROPOSED DECREE LAW.

D. GROUPS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED AS POSSIBLE SOURCES OF OPPOSITION TO INTERSINDICAL ARE PRESENTLY INEFFECTIVE. PORT WORKERS MAY EVENTUALLY FORM A NATIONAL UNION INDEPENDENT OF INTERSINDICAL BUT THE OPORTO LONGSHOREMEN'S UNION IS PRESENTLY UNDERGOING A LEADERSHIP CRISIS. THE OPORTO TEXTILE WORKERS HOLD ELECTIONS DECEMBER 8 AND THEIR POSITION IS DOUBTFUL. THE CATHOLIC WORKERS' ORGANIZATIONS LOC AND JOC CONTROL A LIMITED MEMBERSHIP DISPERSED IN VARIOUS UNIONS. THEIR RELATED GROUP, MOVIMENTO SINDICAL DE BASE, OPPOSES INTERSINDICAL AS A UNITARY SINDICAL MOVEMENT BUT LACKS MEANINGFUL SUPPORT.

2. RECENT TRIP BY LABOR ATTACHE TO OPORTO CONFIRMS COMMUNIST CONTROL OF ORGANIZATIONAL MACHINERY OF MAJOR UNIONS THERE. CONSULATE OPORTO IS REPORTING SEPARATELY ON UNFRIENDLY NEWS TREATMENT VISIT RECEIVED. AIRGRAM WITH COMMENTS ON LABOR SITUATION IN NORTH FOLLOWS.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 LISBON 05253 291643Z

3. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH THERE IS STILL A POSSIBILITY THAT THE PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT WILL NOT IMPOSE A UNITARY LABOR MOVEMENT BY LAW, SUCH A DECISION WOULD BE THE RESULT OF PPD AND SOCIALIST PRESSURES WITHIN THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS AND THE COUNCIL OF STATE. WITHIN THE ORGANIZED LABOR MOVEMENT ITSELF THOSE FAVORING THE COMMUNIST-SUPPORTED POSITION OF AN IMPOSED UNITARY LABOR MOVEMENT HAVE WON HANDS-DOWN.

SCOTT

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LABOR
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974LISBON05253
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740347-0312
From: LISBON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t1974113/aaaaaclo.tel
Line Count: 116
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <11 APR 2002 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <14-Aug-2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LABOR SITUATION IN PORTUGAL
TAGS: ELAB, PINT, PO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005